

REMARKS

The present application was filed on September 27, 1999 with claims 1-15. Claims 1-15 were canceled and claims 16-32 were added in an amendment filed on July 11, 2003. Claim 28 has been canceled and claims 16-27 and 29-32 remain pending. Claims 16, 31 and 32 are the pending independent claims.

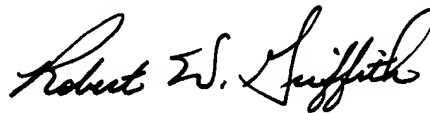
In the outstanding final Office Action dated January 11, 2005, the Examiner: (i) rejected claims 16, 18-20, 22, 24, 26, 27, 31 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,659,742 to Beattie et al. (hereinafter "Beattie"); (ii) rejected claims 17, 25, 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Beattie in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,424,979 to Livingston et al. (hereinafter "Livingston"); (iii) rejected claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Beattie in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,438,543 to Kazi et al. (hereinafter "Kazi"); and (iv) rejected claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Beattie in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,243,713 to Nelson et al. (hereinafter "Nelson").

Applicants acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 28.

In response to the final Office Action, independent claims 16, 31 and 32 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 28, and claim 28 has been canceled without prejudice, in an effort to expedite the application through to issuance.

It is believed that the claims of the application as now presented, i.e., claims 16-27 and 29-32 are patentably distinct over the art of record and are in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing remarks, early and favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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